

CAPSULE SUMMARY

Gwynnbrook Wildlife Management Area

MIHP # BA-3129

Wings Mills

Baltimore County, Maryland

WMA=1919

Public

Gwynnbrook Wildlife Management Area (WMA), acquired in 1919, encompasses approximately 40 acres. It was the first property purchased by the state to support wildlife conservation. From 1919 through the early 1970s, the property was the primary game bird breeding farm in Maryland. By the early 1970s, game farm breeding was phased out in favor of habitat preservation. Currently, Gwynnbrook WMA serves as the main administrative office for the Central Region of the Wildlife and Heritage Service.

Six buildings and one landscape feature constructed prior to 1960 are owned by MdDNR at Gwynnbrook WMA. The resources include the late eighteenth-century Gwynnbrook Farm House and outbuilding (BA-1746), a brooder house, a barn, an old radio building, a tractor and boat shop, and a community pond, all dated ca. 1950. No archeological sites were recorded on the property in the archeological site files maintained by the Maryland Historical Trust.

While conservation is an area of significance in Maryland history during the twentieth century, Gwynnbrook WMA no longer has the integrity of design, setting, feeling, or association to convey its history as the first WMA in the State of Maryland. One isolated brooder house survives to illustrate its history as a game bird breeding farm. The setting at Gwynnbrook WMA has been compromised by the dwindling size of the facility. Originally 297 acres, the WMA was reduced to 96 acres in 1952 and to approximately 40 acres by 2003. The introduction of the tall MPT TV tower and guy wires also compromise the setting, feeling, and association of the property as a WMA. Thus, the landscape at Gwynnbrook WMA no longer possesses sufficient integrity for listing in the National Register of Historic Places or in the Maryland Register of Historic Properties as an historic district.

The buildings constructed by MdDNR ca. 1950 do not possess significance under Criterion C for architecture. The buildings are functional in design and do not exhibit the qualities of architectural significance for their types, periods, or methods of construction; for high artistic value; or, of association with the work of a master (Criterion C). The late-eighteenth century Gwynnbrook Farm House and outbuilding (BA-1746), however, do possess the architectural qualities to embody the distinctive characteristics of their type, period, method of construction (Criterion C).

Maryland Historical Trust

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. BA-3129

1. Name of Property (indicate preferred name)

historic Gwynnbrook Wildlife Management Area
other

2. Location

street and number Gwynnbrook Avenue not for publication
city, town Owings Mills X vicinity
county Baltimore County

3. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Maryland Department of Natural Resources
street and number 580 Taylor Avenue, E-3 telephone 410-260-8451
city, town Annapolis state MD zip code 21401

4. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Baltimore County Courthouse tax map and parcel:
city, town Towson liber folio

5. Primary Location of Additional Data

- ☐ Contributing Resource in National Register District
☐ Contributing Resource in Local Historic District
☐ Determined Eligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
☐ Determined Ineligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
☐ Recorded by HABS/HAER
☐ Historic Structure Report or Research Report
☐ Other

6. Classification

Category	Ownership	Current Function	Resource Count
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> district	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	Contributing Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce/trade	<input type="checkbox"/> 2 <input type="checkbox"/> 4 buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> recreation/culture	<input type="checkbox"/> 1 sites
<input type="checkbox"/> site		<input type="checkbox"/> defense	<input type="checkbox"/> structures
<input type="checkbox"/> object		<input type="checkbox"/> domestic	<input type="checkbox"/> objects
		<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> 2 <input type="checkbox"/> 5 Total
		<input type="checkbox"/> funerary	
		<input type="checkbox"/> government	
		<input type="checkbox"/> health care	
		<input type="checkbox"/> industry	
		<input type="checkbox"/> landscape	
		<input type="checkbox"/> religion	
		<input type="checkbox"/> social	
		<input type="checkbox"/> transportation	
		<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	
		<input type="checkbox"/> unknown	
		<input type="checkbox"/> vacant/not in use	
		<input type="checkbox"/> other:	
			Number of Contributing Resources previously listed in the Inventory
			2

7. Description

Inventory No. BA-3129

Condition

<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> altered

Prepare both a one paragraph summary and a comprehensive description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

SUMMARY

Gwynnbrook Wildlife Management Area (WMA), established in 1919, is located in southwest Baltimore County, north of Owings Mills. The WMA encompasses approximately 40 acres of rising ground located east of Gwynns Falls (Tawney and Pickett, personal communication April 2003). The park boundary is defined by two roads: Owings Mills Boulevard on the west and Gwynnbrook Road on the south. The land rises from approximately 560 feet above mean sea level to a height of 620 feet amsl. A small portion of a tributary of the Gwynns Falls passes through the property. A farm pond was constructed on the property in 1955 (Gwynnbrook WMA vertical file; USGS Reisterstown quadrangle map 1953 photo-revised 1966 and 1974). The pond is located north of Gwynnbrook Avenue at a low elevation along the drainage. The primary uses in the WMA are administrative. The main office and shops for the Central Region of the Wildlife and Heritage Service and the offices for the Central Region park police are located at the WMA. Habitat for wildlife in an increasingly suburban setting and a community fishing hole also are provided.

During April 2003, an architectural reconnaissance survey was conducted of all MdDNR-owned buildings constructed prior to 1960 located within boundaries of Gwynnbrook Wildlife Management Area. The boundaries of the property were those defined by WMA personnel (Tawney and Pickett personal communication 10 April 2003). A request for a formal boundary review was made to Maryland Department of Natural Resources (MdDNR) during summer 2003. Six buildings and one landscape feature constructed prior to 1960 are owned by MdDNR at Gwynnbrook WMA. No archeological sites were recorded on the property in the archeological site files maintained by the Maryland Historical Trust.

DESCRIPTIONS

The following descriptions are organized chronologically by property types. The property classifications were assigned based on the primary historic function of the property as defined by the National Register of Historic Places (U.S. Department of Interior, National Park Service 1991). The accompanying table includes all built resources within the boundaries of Gwynnbrook WMA as defined in April 2003. The following descriptions are only for the resources constructed prior to 1960. A discrepancy exists in the secondary records about construction dates for the MdDNR-built resources at Gwynnbrook WMA. The MdDNR detailed maintenance inventory (MdDNR DMI 2002) recorded the construction dates as ca. 1950. A 1975 inventory of the built resources at Gwynnbrook WMA dated the built resources as "approximately 30 years" old (i.e., ca. 1945) (Gwynnbrook Work Center 1975). Neither source documented the construction dates chosen. The 1945 date seems too early since the country was devoting its resources to World War II and state government did not resume its annual reports until 1946. In addition, in 1951, a fire destroyed the primary brooder complex at Gwynnbrook. No reports of what buildings actually remained after the fire or of what was built following that fire were reported in the annual reports during the annual reports issued in the 1950s. The 1953 USGS Reisterstown quadrangle map depicted three support buildings on the property, one of which appears to be in the same location as the barn. For the purposes of this MIHP form, a ca. 1950 construction date was assigned to the barn, brooder house, and old radio building.

DOMESTIC

The Gwynnbrook House (BA-1746) (Former Dolfield House) is a Federal-style dwelling that was constructed during the late eighteenth century (ca. 1780). The chain of title included in the MIHP form BA-1746 (Deale ca. 1979) appears incorrect. Data assembled by John McGrain in 1984 indicated that the property was owned by the Tagart family between the late eighteenth century and 1886, when it was sold to the Alexander Dolfield. Dolfield's heirs sold the 297 acres to the State of Maryland in 1919. The 1798 tax assessment for John Tagart, Sr., who owned 1,057 acres, recorded improvements of a two-story brick house measuring 16 x 33 feet, as well as a log house for Negroes, a brick milk house, a log hen house, a brick barn, and a log stable (McGrain 1984). The house is located at the southwest corner of the Gwynnbrook WMA, west of the entrance road into the area.

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The house is oriented south overlooking a lawn. A line of evergreen trees is planted along west side of the house. Currently the building is maintained by a curator. MdDNR initiated the curatorship program in 1982. Under the curatorship program, private individuals rehabilitate and maintain historic buildings in return for life tenancies. The curator has renovated the building, while maintaining a high degree of integrity for the exterior features and interior woodwork.

The Gwynnbrook House, constructed ca. 1780, is a two-story, Flemish-bond brick building with two integrated brick sections and two later wood additions on the rear elevation. The brick portion of the building features a three-bay main block attached to a two-bay brick section. The building has a stone and brick foundation, which extends to a brick watertable. Each section has a gable roof sheathed with wood shingles. The roof of the west end of the building is slightly lower than the roof over the main block. A boxed cornice with a cove molding spans both sections of the south elevation. The main block has two interior brick chimneys with corbelled caps. A brick chimney also projects from the interior wall of the west elevation. The principal entry is centered in the south elevation of the main block. The main entry contains a six-panel wood door set under a single light transom. The two-bay section on the west end of the building contains a six-panel wood door. The main entry has a one-bay porch with a hip roof that is supported on two Doric columns. The porch has a wood deck and is accessed by two brick steps. The secondary doorway is accessed by a concrete stoop. The windows on the first floor of the main block are twelve-over-six-light windows; the second story windows are nine-over-six-light windows. The windows in the west section of the building are six-over-six-light, double-hung sash. The windows are framed by wood surrounds with quarter round molding. Hinges for exterior shutters are evident on the window surrounds. No shutters currently are on the building. The interior of the house is reported to have period interior woodwork.

Two wood-frame additions project from the north elevation of the building. The additions represent more recent construction. A one-story addition projects from the two-bay west end of the building. A two-story wing with a brick chimney projects from the rear of the main block. Both additions are clad with horizontal wood drop siding. The windows in the additions are wood-frame, two-over-two and six-over-six-light, double-hung sash units. The door in the two-story rear wing is a four-light and wood panel unit. The house is in good condition.

An associated smokehouse is located north of the house. The one-story, wood-frame building rests on stone wall foundation with some concrete infill. The exterior walls are clad with narrow horizontal wood siding. The gable roof is sheathed with wood shingles and has exposed rafter ends. A central doorway is located in the south elevation. The door is constructed of narrow wood boards and has exterior metal hinges. The outbuilding is in good condition. Minor rot along the foundation boards and overall paint failure were noted. The building retains integrity of an outbuilding.

The former Gwynnbrook Caretaker's House (BA-3131), constructed in 1919-1920, was a two-story-and-a-half-story, wood-frame American Four-Square. The house was sited at the top of rise. The building served as the caretaker's house until the early 1970s, when the game bird breeding program ended. By 1975, the house served as the Central Region office of the MdDNR. In 1999, MdDNR negotiated with the Maryland Historical Trust (MHT) to remove the building. In correspondence dated 30 March 1999, the MHT approved demolition of the residence upon completion of MIHP documentation. The documentation was prepared in July 1999 (Mazurek 1999). The house was removed and the Central Region police station, completed in 2001, was constructed on the site.

RECREATION/CULTURE

The buildings located at Gwynnbrook WMA were constructed to support either the game bird breeding program or the administrative activities of the Central Region, Wildlife and Heritage Service. These buildings include a former brooder house that now serves as a shop, a barn, the old radio building, and a boat/tractor shop, all dated ca. 1950. Buildings added to the complex

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constructed after 1960 include the one-story, concrete-block garage and office completed in 1967 and the vinyl-sided police office building constructed in 2001.

The former brooder house, constructed ca. 1950, was used to raise quail and pheasants. The one-story, wood-frame building adopts an L-shaped ground plan. The exterior walls are clad with horizontal wood boards on the north, west, and south elevations. The east elevation is clad in plywood. The building rests on a poured concrete slab. The shed roof is sheathed with asphalt shingles. A wood frieze spans the south elevation. An exterior concrete-block chimney is attached to the west elevation. The south elevation features four, wood-frame, six-over-six-light windows. Two single, wood-panel doors are located in the west elevation. An exterior hinged, vertical board door occupies the east elevation. The former brooder house is in good condition. The building currently is used as a shop. While the building retains integrity of design, materials, and workmanship, its setting has been compromised. The brooder house was one of a complex of similarly styled brooder houses and surrounded by fenced outdoor pens. The other brooder houses and the pens have been removed.

The barn, constructed ca. 1950, rests on poured concrete piers. The upper portion of the barn is wood frame and is clad with vertical wood boards. The gable roof is sheathed with standing seam metal. A large metal sliding track door is located on the south elevation. The roof and the door were installed in 1997 (MdDNR DMI 2002). The barn is in good condition. The exterior materials exhibit integrity of design and materials.

The Old Radio Building, constructed ca. 1950, is a two-story, wood-frame building. The building was used to repair radios used by the park police and as a control center. The building is one-bay wide and four bays deep and rests on a poured concrete foundation. The wood-frame siding is covered with asbestos shingles. The front gable roof is sheathed with standing seam metal. The windows on the first story are one-over-one-light, double-hung sash. The windows on the second story are six-over-six-light, double-hung sash. The east elevation contains a plywood door on the first floor and a five-panel wood door on the second floor. A secondary door is located on the south elevation. The old radio building is in fair condition. The asbestos shingles are broken and missing. Holes were noted through the exterior cladding. Paint failure was noted on all the wood elements on the building. Doors and windows are broken. A metal antenna is located at the southeast corner of the building. The old radio building has integrity of design, but not materials. A small plywood radio equipment building constructed during the 1980s is located adjacent to the south elevation of the old radio building.

A boat/tractor shop rests on a poured concrete foundation. The exterior walls and roof are clad with standing seam metal. Wood-frame, six-light hopper windows are located in the north, east, and south elevations. The west elevation contains a metal sliding door. The construction date of the building is undocumented. In 1975, the building was described in an inventory as a one-story, wood-frame and wood-clad building with an asphalt-shingled gable roof; it was reported as constructed ca. 1945 (Gwynnbrook Work Center 1975). Since 1975, the building has either been substantially renovated using modern materials or entirely rebuilt. The building no longer exhibits the integrity of design, materials, or workmanship of a ca. 1945 building.

The Gwynnbrook WMA community pond was constructed in 1955 to provide water for wildlife and to serve as a community fishing hole. Dikes form the east, south, and west sides of the pond. The north shore of the pond was left natural. The pond is approximately 1.3 acres. A stone riprap channel links the pond to a stream; a spillway is located at the northeast corner of the pond. Fish are stocked yearly in the pond.

8. Significance

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Period	Areas of Significance	Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> health/medicine	<input type="checkbox"/> performing arts	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> invention	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-1999	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment/ recreation	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion	
<input type="checkbox"/> 2000-	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> ethnic heritage	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science	
	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/ settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> social history	
	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning		<input type="checkbox"/> maritime industry	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation	
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> conservation		<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:	

Specific dates	1919	Architect/Builder	N/A
Construction dates	N/A		

Evaluation for:

☒ National Register ☒ Maryland Register ☐ not evaluated

Prepare a one-paragraph summary statement of significance addressing applicable criteria, followed by a narrative discussion of the history of the resource and its context. (For compliance reports, complete evaluation on a DOE Form - see manual.)

SUMMARY

Gwynnbrook Wildlife Management Area (WMA) is located in southwest Baltimore County, north of Owings Mills. The WMA encompasses approximately 40 acres of rising ground located east of Gwynns Falls (Tawney and Pickett, personal communication April 2003). The primary uses at the WMA include the main office and shops for the Central Region of the Wildlife and Heritage Service, offices for the Central Region park police, habitat for wildlife in an increasingly suburban setting, and a community fishing hole.

Gwynnbrook WMA was acquired by the State of Maryland in 1919 and was the first property purchased by the state to support wildlife conservation. From 1919 through the early 1970s, the property was the primary game bird farm in Maryland. By the early 1970s, the game farm approach to stocking game was phased out in favor of habitat preservation. The role of Gwynnbrook as the main administrative office of the Central Region coincided with its operation as a game bird farm. The MdDNR police were supported through the radio building and shop. Garages, shops, and the barn stored equipment and tools used throughout the Central Region.

While conservation is an area of significance in Maryland history during the twentieth century, Gwynnbrook WMA no longer has the integrity of design, setting, feeling, or association to convey its history as the first WMA in the State of Maryland. A single isolated brooder house without outdoor pens survives to illustrate its history as a game bird farm. The design and arrangement of the buildings at Gwynnbrook WMA currently reflect administrative functions. The focus is on the modern police center, the Central Region office, and storage and shop buildings. The brooder house currently serves as a shop. The setting at Gwynnbrook WMA has been compromised by the dwindling size of the facility. Originally 297 acres, the WMA was reduced to 96 acres in 1952 and to approximately 40 acres by 2003. The decrease in size has resulted in the closure of the Wild Acres Trail and curtailed the number of acres managed to support wildlife. The introduction of the tall TV tower and guy wires also compromise the setting, feeling, and association of the property as a WMA. Thus, the landscape at Gwynnbrook WMA no longer possesses sufficient integrity for listing in the National Register of Historic Places or the Maryland Register of Historic Properties as an historic district.

The buildings constructed by MdDNR for WMA purposes do not possess significance under Criterion C for architecture. The buildings are functional in design and do not exhibit the qualities of architectural significance for their types, periods, or methods of construction; for high artistic value; or, of association with the work of a master (Criterion C). The late-eighteenth century Gwynnbrook Farm House and outbuilding (BA-1746), however, do possess the architectural qualities to embody the distinctive characteristics of their type, period, method of construction during the late eighteenth century (Criterion C).

RESOURCE HISTORY AND CONTEXT

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The land that became Gwynnbrook WMA was historically used for agriculture. Land patents in the region of Owings Mills in the Worthington Valley were issued between ca. 1730 and 1755. By 1798, John Tagart, Sr., assembled 1,057 acres, including parts of Lyons Den, Elizabeth's Meadows, Wells Prospect and Harrison's Meadows (McGrain 1984). The 1798 tax assessment for John Tagart, Sr., noted that the acreage was improved with a two-story brick house measuring 16 x 33 feet, which is probably Gwynnbrook House (McGrain 1984). The property also included a log house for Negroes, a brick milk house, a log hen house, a brick barn, and a log stable (McGrain 1984). The Tagart family continued to own the property throughout most of the nineteenth century, though the Gwynnbrook House probably was rented to tenants during the last portion of the century. Historic maps support the landownership as outlined by McGrain's data assembled in 1984, which contradicts the chain-of-title information contained in MIHP form BA-1746 (Deale ca. 1979).

Wheat was a primary agricultural product of the region during the late eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. The numerous streams that traversed the fall line were harnessed to power gristmills. During the last quarter of the eighteenth century and the first quarter of the nineteenth century, Samuel Owings operated four gristmills in the Reisterstown area (Wesler et al. 1981). The Reisterstown Road, constructed as a turnpike during the first third of the nineteenth century, linked Baltimore City with Hanover, Pennsylvania (Wesler et al. 1981).

In 1886, the Gwynnbrook property, then 297 acres, was sold to Alexander Dolfield. The Dolfield family owned the property until 1919, when it was sold to the Maryland State Game Department. The Gwynnbrook WMA is "the oldest tract of land set aside for wildlife in Maryland" (MdDNR 2000). The State Game Department purchased the property to establish a game farm to raise game birds and rabbits (MdDNR 1989:1).

The establishment of Gwynnbrook as a game bird farm and game refuge was influenced by a national movement to preserve wildlife and natural resources. The Conservation Commission of Maryland was formed in 1908, the same year President Theodore Roosevelt called the nation's governors to a conference at the White House to discuss ways to conserve the country's natural resources. President Roosevelt appointed a National Conservation Commission, which directed each governor to appoint a state Conservation Commission (Conservation Commission of Maryland 1909:15, 20-21).

Upon its formation in 1908, the Conservation Commission of Maryland began to examine the status of various natural resources in the state. In 1909, the Commission issued a report of its findings. In the game preservation section of the report, the commission recommended revision of state and county game laws to provide uniformity, uniform enforcement of game laws, and funding for enforcement. At that time, for instance, the state warden had no paid wardens to assist in patrolling the 12,000 square miles of the state. As a result, game laws, such as those prohibiting shooting out of season, were violated routinely. In addition, small game needed protection from its natural enemies, such as foxes, hawks, and stray cats and dogs. Game preserves were needed so small game could survive and prosper (Conservation Commission of Maryland 1909:20-21, 181-183).

In its second annual report, the Conservation Commission of Maryland continued to advocate game preservation. Game birds would "help feed the nation" if protected when young and allowed to mature. Game birds also served a useful purpose by eating weed seeds and insects, reducing work for farmers (Conservation Commission of Maryland 1917:69).

In 1918, the Maryland Legislature imposed a statewide hunting license program to regulate hunting and to generate funds for game preservation. The license system – in which a resident county license cost \$1, a resident statewide license cost \$5, and a non-resident statewide license cost \$10 – made various county license laws obsolete. The funds paid for eight deputy game wardens to patrol the state and to enforce game laws; for the purchase of quail, pheasant, rabbits, and other game to restock county populations; and, for the feeding and protection of game. The game department and the conservation commission hoped to increase the number

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of paid wardens the following year (Conservation Commission of Maryland 1918:23).

In 1919, license fees generated sufficient money to purchase the 297-acre Dolfield estate and its buildings for \$24,000. The land was to be used as a game bird farm to breed game birds. Two pens of galvanized wire and set six inches into the ground were constructed. One pen housed ring-necked pheasants and measured 200 by 150 by 7 feet, with a rear house measuring 200 by 5 feet and 7 by 5 feet. The pen was divided into five sections of 40 feet. The other pen housed bobwhite quail and measured 150 by 150 by 4½ feet. The pen was divided into five sections of 30 feet each. The state also contracted to build a 90- by 36-foot brooding or hatching house, and a dwelling house with outbuildings for the gamekeeper. E. Lee LeCompte, the State Game Warden, anticipated that these buildings would represent the only construction at the game farm, and that expenses for subsequent years would be limited to breeding and releasing game (Conservation Commission of Maryland 1919:88-89).

In 1919, the Conservation Commission recommended amendments and additional laws to aid in game protection. The Commission recommended that anyone trespassing on land owned by the State Game Department or on posted state game refuges be charged with a misdemeanor punishable by a \$100 fine. Other suggested amendments closed the season on female Chinese ring-necked pheasants and required dog owners to keep their dogs from running free (Conservation Commission of Maryland 1919:91-92).

In 1920, LeCompte, the State Game Warden, reported that Gwynnbrook Game Farm had a productive first season. The farm raised and distributed over 100 ring-necked pheasants to each county in Maryland, a total of 2,316 pheasants. LeCompte planned to distribute more birds the following season. The game farm retained 160 birds for breeding. Gwynnbrook also distributed 839 pheasant eggs produced by its stock of birds, and 3,600 pheasant eggs purchased from a broker in another state. It distributed 7,973 bobwhite quail in 23 counties, and expected the following spring to receive 10,000 more quail from brokers in Mexico (Conservation Commission of Maryland 1920:91).

LeCompte also reported on financial aspects of Gwynnbrook's operation. In addition to revenue from hunting license fees, the game farm received \$50 a month in rent for the storehouse on the property, and half of the revenue from the sale of crops on the property. LeCompte stated that the game department hoped to improve the land to make the farming operation more profitable (Conservation Commission of Maryland 1920:92).

The Gwynnbrook Game Farm was more prolific in 1921. The stock of Chinese ring-necked pheasants produced 8,005 eggs, of which 5,027 hatched. The game farm distributed 2,900 pheasants. It expected to produce 5,000 but was hampered when drought and heat killed hundreds of young birds. The variety of birds also increased; the stock included nine golden pheasants, two Lady Amherst pheasants, one Reeves pheasant, four mallard ducks, and 12 bobwhite quail (Conservation Commission of Maryland 1921:59-60).

In his report for 1923, LeCompte recommended that the state purchase as much land as possible in each county to establish game refuges where game animals could breed and be protected (Conservation Department of the State of Maryland 1923:42). In 1923, the state Conservation Department was established. Game-related activities were overseen by the Game Division, a unit of the Conservation Department.

As of 1930, the stock of birds bred at Gwynnbrook diversified even further. Bobwhite quail (n=687) were stocked in the greatest number, followed by 151 Chinese ring-necked pheasants, 71 mallard ducks, 31 golden pheasants, 26 Canada geese, 22 wild turkeys, 10 silver pheasants, 7 black neck pheasants, 6 whistling swans, 5 Amherst pheasants, 4 wood ducks, 3 blue-winged teal duck, 2 reeves pheasants, 1 black duck, and 1 peafowl. Twenty-one Virginia white-tailed deer also lived at Gwynnbrook (Conservation Department of the State of Maryland 1930:107). Visitors frequented the game farm to see the birds, particularly on Sundays (Conservation Department of the State of Maryland 1931:95). In December 1931, a disease killed 75 percent of the 1,907 bobwhite

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quail that were to be bred in the spring. The disease was eradicated after the game farm implemented sanitary measures including separating birds into smaller groups and disinfecting cages and utensils (Conservation Commission of the State of Maryland 1932:122-3, 128).

In 1934, the Civilian Conservation Corps cut firelines through portions of Gwynnbrook to provide access for firefighting equipment (Conservation Department of the State of Maryland 1934:80). That same year, the prolific production of quail eggs and birds continued, with 11,664 eggs collected and 5,593 bobwhite quail raised (Conservation Department of the State of Maryland 1934:111).

In 1937, state wildlife restoration efforts received a boost when the President signed into law the Pittman-Robertson Act. Under the act, the federal government directed funds generated from an excise tax on firearms to underwrite 75 per cent of the cost of acquiring property for wildlife restoration projects (State Game Warden and Maryland State Game and Inland Fish Commission 1939:10).

During the late 1940s and early 1950s, the Maryland Department of Game and Inland Fish continued to acquire land for public shooting, wildlife restoration, and game refuges throughout the state. "Waterfowl management units" in three Eastern Shore counties were enlarged through property acquisition. In addition, land options were obtained in Allegany County, and lands along the Potomac River and its tributaries were considered for purchase or acceptance as gifts (Maryland Department of Game and Inland Fish 1951:37). By 1950, the Department of Game and Inland Fish managed 25,677 acres, including 46 acres for fish hatcheries, 202 acres for game farms, 5,217 acres for game refuges, and 17,590 acres in public shooting lands (Maryland Board of Natural Resources 1950). Gwynnbrook Game Farm was one of three state-owned game farms. The other two were Montgomery County Game Farm and Wicomico Game Farm (Maryland Board of Natural Resources 1950).

The game bird breeding program at Gwynnbrook WMA increased. In 1939, a brood house containing "million dollar brooders" was constructed. Once the eggs were hatched, the chicks were transferred from the incubator into the new brooders, which were racks of five trays that held approximately 50 birds. After three to four weeks in the brooders, the birds were moved into outdoor pens. The field pens measured 18 x 8 feet set on six-inch frames on the ground (Maryland Department of Game and Inland Fish 1943:55). By 1939, 25 outdoor winter holding pens were constructed (Maryland Department of Game and Inland Fish 1939:46). On 28 May 1951, a fire destroyed the main brooder house containing the "million dollar brooders." The fire killed 3,276 quail chicks, 480 breeding birds, and 4,800 eggs, and burned all equipment. The total loss was estimated at approximately \$30,000. Nevertheless, the farm produced 11,489 quail, which were released across the state (Maryland Board of Natural Resources 1951:64). However, the following year, all eggs produced at Gwynnbrook were shipped to the Wicomico Game Farm at Salisbury, because the fire destroyed the incubator plant (Maryland Game and Inland Fish Commission 1952:60).

Facilities were constructed again at Gwynnbrook Game Farm. The records did not indicate whether the buildings currently located at the WMA were constructed prior to the fire or as replacement buildings after the fire. Three support buildings were depicted on the property on the 1953 U.S.G.S. Reisterstown quadrangle map; one building appeared to be in the approximate location of the current barn. Based on the map, the construction dates chosen for the barn, the brooder house, and the old radio building are ca. 1950. One landscape feature, the community pond, was completed at Gwynnbrook, in 1955. The pond was stocked yearly with fish (Norris 1997:5).

In 1952, the overall size of Gwynnbrook Game Farm dwindled to 96 acres after 203 acres were transferred to the Maryland Department of Mental Hygiene for use as the Rosewood State Training School. The land was not needed for quail production and was slated for agriculture; however, Gwynnbrook officials were not able to implement their plan. The remaining land and buildings were "in excellent condition," and produced 11,027 quail for delivery to six regions of the state. According to the 1950 annual

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report of the Board of Natural Resources, Gwynnbrook Game Farm needed "facilities to ground-condition these birds at low cost and still maintain production at one farm" (Maryland Board of Natural Resources 1950:47, 67).

By 1959, conservation officials began to question whether game farms were the best technique for replenishing wildlife populations. According to the 1959 annual report of the Maryland Board of Natural Resources, game farms were becoming too costly, and game reared in captivity frequently died before the hunting season began. Game management and preservation activities shifted to providing hospitable environments for native game species in two ways. Farmers were given materials, such as shrubs and seeds, to attract and to support wild animals and birds. Farmers spread the materials around tracts of land set aside for habitat. In 1959, 5,000 of the 40,000 farms in the state provided this temporary cover. For a more permanent option, the Department of Game and Inland Fish began to buy larger tracts to manage as game sanctuaries. The sanctuaries were planted with crops and shrubs to provide food and cover. For populations that were depleted despite these two methods, the Department of Game and Fish maintained limited game breeding facilities (Maryland Board of Natural Resources 1959:39-41). As of 1997, remnants of the breeding cages were still present at Gwynnbrook (Norris 1997:5). As of 2003, only one former brooder house survives on the property.

In 1967, a storage and implement building was constructed at Gwynnbrook WMA. This building was built on the site of a wood-frame brooding house for quail. The building was constructed of concrete block and currently serves as offices for the Wildlife and Heritage Service in the Central Region (Maryland Game and Inland Fish Commission 1968:32; Tawney 2003).

An undated report in MdDNR files outlined the intended rehabilitation at Gwynnbrook Farm House (BA-1746), a late eighteenth-century dwelling on the property. The report covered the exterior, basement, kitchen, bathrooms, attic, and general interior. Exterior recommendations included directing drainage away from the building through gutter repairs, downspout installation, and regrading; repointing chimneys and brick mortar joints; repairing and replacing wooden clapboard siding; and, repainting the wood exterior. Suggested basement repairs included removal of eroded soil and installing brick on bare areas, and waterproofing walls. The kitchen required repairs to cabinets, floors, and entryways, and the installation of a new range and refrigerator ("Outline of Rehabilitation" n.d.:1-2).

For the bathrooms, the report recommended replacement of all existing fixtures, repairing the plumbing, installing new floor covering, and painting and refinishing walls and wood trim. Recommended rehabilitation of the general interior included repairing doors, replacing light fixtures, reglazing, repairing, and replacing window units, refinishing wood floors, repainting walls and ceilings, and installing shelves and poles in closets. In the attic, the report recommended repairing the staircase, floors, and brickwork, installing installation between the rafters, and removing trash ("Outline of Rehabilitation" n.d.:2-3).

In late 1969 or 1970, a shooting range was constructed at Gwynnbrook for use by the MdDNR police. By 1986, several other police departments were using the range, including those from the Howard County Sheriff Department, Towson State University, Bowie State University, Springfield State Hospital, University of Maryland at Baltimore County, and a private security agency. Pistols and shotguns were allowed, but the Howard County Sheriff's Department also was permitted to use automatic weapons (Mause 1986).

According to a 1972 document, capital improvements at Gwynnbrook at that time consisted of a regional office, the caretaker's house, a large barn, a large shop, two garages, and a radio shop (MdDNR 1972). In 1974, a management plan was written for Gwynnbrook WMA. The management plan was updated in 1987 (MdDNR n.d.:8).

In 1979, the built resources in the WMA were surveyed as part of an architectural survey conducted by the Maryland Historical Trust (Deale 1979). At that time, the only resource identified as possessing potential significance for listing in the National

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Name Gwynnbrook Wildlife Management Area

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Register of Historic Places was the Gwynnbrook Farm House (BA-1746, the former Dolfield House). The remaining buildings located on the property were not identified as possessing merit for inclusion in the Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties (Deale 1979).

In late 1984, a portion of the entrance road was resurfaced, and a parking lot was renovated (Engle 1984). In 1989, MdDNR received a request to lease the historic house. Sean McKewen, Program Manager for the Forest, Park, and Wildlife Service, stated in an interoffice memorandum that the agency did not object to a tenant living in the house and rehabilitating it, as long as the agency was not responsible for providing services to the tenant. Subleasing would be allowed only if the agency had the right to evict subtenants. The memorandum also referred to potential future plans to extend Owings Mills Boulevard past Gwynnbrook, bringing the road within a few yards of the house (McKewen 1989).

In the early 1990s, the Wild Acres Trail was constructed. The trail was self guided. The purpose of the trail was to teach and encourage the use of wildlife habitat in small areas (Norris 1997:5). Visitors used the self-guided nature trail until closed in 2003.

Sometime after 1991, a document titled "The Role of Wildlife Management Areas in the Department of Natural Resources Wildlife Division" was produced. The document indicated that the MdDNR was shifting the purpose of Wildlife Management Areas to demonstrate proper wildlife habitat management to property owners. According to this document, one purpose of Wildlife Management Areas was to "implement management techniques and to institute practical application of natural resource practices such as habitat manipulation which includes timber harvesting procedures to WMA's as a way of providing habitat and showing the private landowner what can, should, or should not be done on their land to benefit wildlife." Apparently, property owners were making an "increasing demand for answers" from the Maryland Department of State Planning as to how to manage their property to accommodate wildlife (MdDNR n.d.:4-5). This shift complemented the decision in the early 1960s to cease breeding wildlife at game farms and, instead, provide wildlife habitat at state-owned sanctuaries or through private landowners.

The document also explained how Wildlife Management Areas would be managed. The existing structure of regional and district managers would remain in place, but the managers would be required to develop work plans. District wildlife managers would develop an annual work plan for their Wildlife Management Area. The Wildlife Division would circulate these work plans for public comment at hearings conducted in each region of the state. In addition, the Wildlife Advisory Commission would meet annually to review the work plans (MdDNR n.d.:4-5).

A Wildlife Management Area Plan was written for Gwynnbrook WMA in 1997. This plan provided strategies for meeting the statewide and regional goals established in the 1994 Comprehensive Plan for Wildlife Management Areas. There were four statewide goals: "to conserve and enhance the habitat essential to maintain viable populations of native and desirable non-native wildlife species that inhabit the area and ensure their perpetuation as viable components of their ecosystems; to promote and provide public hunting opportunities for licensed hunters; to promote and provide general wildlife recreation opportunities for everyone; (and) to educate the public in the values and needs of wildlife and their habitats by demonstration and promotion of sound land management practices" (Norris 1997:7; MdDNR 1994:II-3).

These goals fit into an "ecosystem approach," in which lands were managed in a way that was compatible with the ecosystems in which the properties were located. This was a new approach in the management of Wildlife Management Areas, and it was instituted to "promote the maintenance of biological diversity across the state." Management goals were developed to match eight Ecosystem Management Guidelines (MdDNR 1994:II-1).

"Regional initiatives" in four categories were included in the 1994 comprehensive plan: habitat, recreation, acquisition, and demonstration and education. Each category listed goals that related to the region and to specific properties. The habitat category

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included emphasizing upland habitats, developing cooperative management schemes with surrounding landowners to maintain wildlife habitat, and maintaining habitat conditions at Gwynnbrook to facilitate urban demonstration and education at the Wild Acres Trail. Recreation included maintaining public hunting opportunities within the region and maintaining the Wild Acres Trail at Gwynnbrook. Regional acquisition goals included acquiring additional land to meet habitat and recreation objectives, and acquiring upland habitat in Carroll, Harford, and Baltimore counties. Demonstration and education included maintaining demonstration habitat management practices at Gwynnbrook and other properties, maintaining and promoting Wild Acres Trail at Gwynnbrook, developing volunteer programs for demonstration and education at Wild Acres Trail, and holding an annual demonstration event at one Wildlife Management Area in the region (Norris 1997:8).

The objectives and strategies for Gwynnbrook outlined in the 1997 Wildlife Management Area Plan were linked to the four regional initiatives. The habitat management objectives and strategies section divided Gwynnbrook into four wildlife management units, with objectives listed for each unit, and strategies for meeting the objectives. Objectives included maintaining upland habitat, nesting bird boxes, forestland, and the Wild Acres Trail; protecting wetlands; and allowing farmland to revert to forestland (Norris 1997:9-10). In the acquisition category, there were no immediate objectives and strategies. However, the plan did speculate on how more land could be acquired in the sub-watershed. In addition, nearby land managed by the Department of General Services could be better managed by a unit of the Department of Natural Resources, the plan stated. The plan also noted that Gwynnbrook formerly encompassed more than 90 acres, but recently was reduced to 40 after a land transfer to Maryland Public Television (Norris 1997:10-11).

Recreation objectives included promoting and expanding recreational opportunities and increasing volunteer support. Proposed strategies included working with the fisheries division to maintain the pond's integrity for fishing, maintaining trails for hikers and bird-watchers, and maintaining picnic tables. Proposed strategies to increase volunteer support included targeting current and potential user groups and community service organizations, and forming partnerships with surrounding landowners (Norris 1997:11).

Only one demonstration and education objective was proposed, to improve demonstration and education efforts. Efforts at that time included providing maps and trail guides of annual and perennial food plots, warm season grass plantings, cavity nesting bird boxes, brush piles, butterfly and hummingbird gardens, and bird feeders. Information displays were posted at the main parking lot, and tours of the trail were given upon request. Proposed strategies for improving demonstration and education efforts included promoting and providing more guided tours of the Wild Acres Trail and conducting field trips for local schools or organizations (Norris 1997:11-12).

The comprehensive plan also proposed an annual work plan for 1997 to 2001. The agenda was the same for all five years: maintain the boundary, trail, parking lots, sign, cavity nesting bird boxes, annual food plots, and the Wild Acres Trail (Norris 1997:13). As of 2000, amenities included the fishing pond and support facilities for the Central Region of the Wildlife and Heritage Service.

The acreage of Gwynnbrook WMA was reduced further through the construction of new production facilities for Maryland Public Television on the north side of the WMA during the late 1990s and the erection of a new TV transmission tower during 2002. The completion of the TV tower in 2002 reduced access to the Wild Acres Trail. The property currently encompasses approximately 40 acres. The current activities at the WMA are bow hunting on a range, wildlife observation, and fishing in the pond (MdDNR 2000).

EVALUATION

The purpose of this Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties (MIHP) form is to evaluate Gwynnbrook WMA as a potential historic district and to assess each MdDNR-owned built resource constructed prior to 1960 applying the National Register Criteria

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for Evaluation (36 CFR 60.4 [a-d]) and the criteria for the Maryland Register of Historic Properties (Annotated Code of Maryland 83B, Title 5). The design and physical characteristics of the WMA were analyzed for their potential significance within the appropriate historic context in the area of conservation from 1919 through present.

Gwynnbrook WMA was acquired by the State of Maryland in 1919 and was the first property purchased by the state to support wildlife conservation. From 1919 through the early 1970s, the property was the primary game bird farm in the state. Between 1939 and 1951, the WMA had a state of the art brooder and incubator system, several brooder houses, and numerous outdoor holding pens. One brooder house survives to illustrate the game bird breeding history of the property. By the early 1970s, the game farm approach to stocking game was phased out in favor of habitat preservation. The role of Gwynnbrook as the main administrative office of the Central Region coincided with its operation as a game farm. The MdDNR police were supported through the radio building and shop. Garages, shops, and the barn stored equipment and tools used throughout the Central Region. Since the 1970s, administrative functions supplanted game bird breeding activities.

Gwynnbrook WMA was the first of numerous properties managed by the Department of Game and Inland Fish, currently the Wildlife and Heritage Service, located throughout the State of Maryland. By 1950, the property was among 25,677 acres of state-owned lands managed by the Wildlife and Heritage Service. These lands included 5,217 acres of game refuges, 202 acres of state game farms, including the Gwynnbrook property, and 46 acres for fisheries. Public shooting lands encompassed 20,210 acres. In 2002, the Wildlife and Heritage Service managed over 100,600 acres of state-owned land, of which only Gwynnbrook WMA is located in Baltimore County. An additional 21,018 acres of state parks and other land units also are located in Baltimore County (MdDNR 2002).

While conservation is an area of significance in Maryland history during the twentieth century, Gwynnbrook WMA no longer has the integrity of design, setting, feeling, or association to convey its history as the first WMA in the State of Maryland. From a collection of brooder houses and outdoor pens, only a single brooder house survives to illustrate the WMA's history as a game bird breeding farm. The design and arrangement of the buildings at Gwynnbrook WMA currently reflect the administrative functions that occur there. The concrete-block Central Region office, constructed in 1967 as a shop and office, was built on the site of the quail brooder house. The modern police center completed in 2001 replaced the caretaker's house constructed in 1919. The brooder house currently serves as a shop. The setting at Gwynnbrook WMA has been compromised by the dwindling size of the land unit. Originally 297 acres, the WMA was reduced to 96 acres in 1952 and to approximately 40 acres by 2003. The decrease in size has closed access to the Wild Acres Trail and curtailed the number of acres managed to support wildlife. The introduction of the tall TV tower and guy wires that support the MPT complex also compromise the setting, feeling, and association of the property as a WMA. Thus, the landscape at Gwynnbrook WMA no longer possesses sufficient integrity for listing in the National Register of Historic Places or the Maryland Register of Historic Properties as an historic district.

The buildings constructed by MdDNR for WMA purposes do not possess significance under Criterion C for architecture. The buildings are functional in design and do not exhibit the qualities of architectural significance for their types, periods, or methods of construction; for high artistic value; or, of association with the work of a master (Criterion C).

The late-eighteenth century Gwynnbrook House and Outbuilding, however, do possess the architectural qualities to embody the distinctive characteristics of their type, period, method of construction during the late eighteenth century (Criterion C). These elements are evidenced in the Flemish bond brickwork with molded brick water table and beltcourse, and the molded wood box cornice. Interior elements include the telescoping plan with the main block containing a hall-parlor plan with a side kitchen wing. This arrangement has been identified by Joe Getty as an arrangement adapted on a sloping site that "is a typical Federal-style characteristic for central Maryland farmhouses" (Getty 1984).

9. Major Bibliographical References

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See continuation sheet.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of surveyed property 40

Acreage of historical setting 297

Quadrangle name Reisterstown

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

Verbal boundary description and justification

The boundaries of the survey area comprise all property owned by Maryland Department of Natural Resources within the legal boundaries of Gwynnbrook WMA as of June 2003.

11. Form Prepared By

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organization R. Christopher Goodwin & Associates, Inc.

date 1/23/04

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The Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

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Crownsville MD 21032
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Gwynnbrook Wildlife Management Area, Baltimore County, Maryland
Continuation Sheet

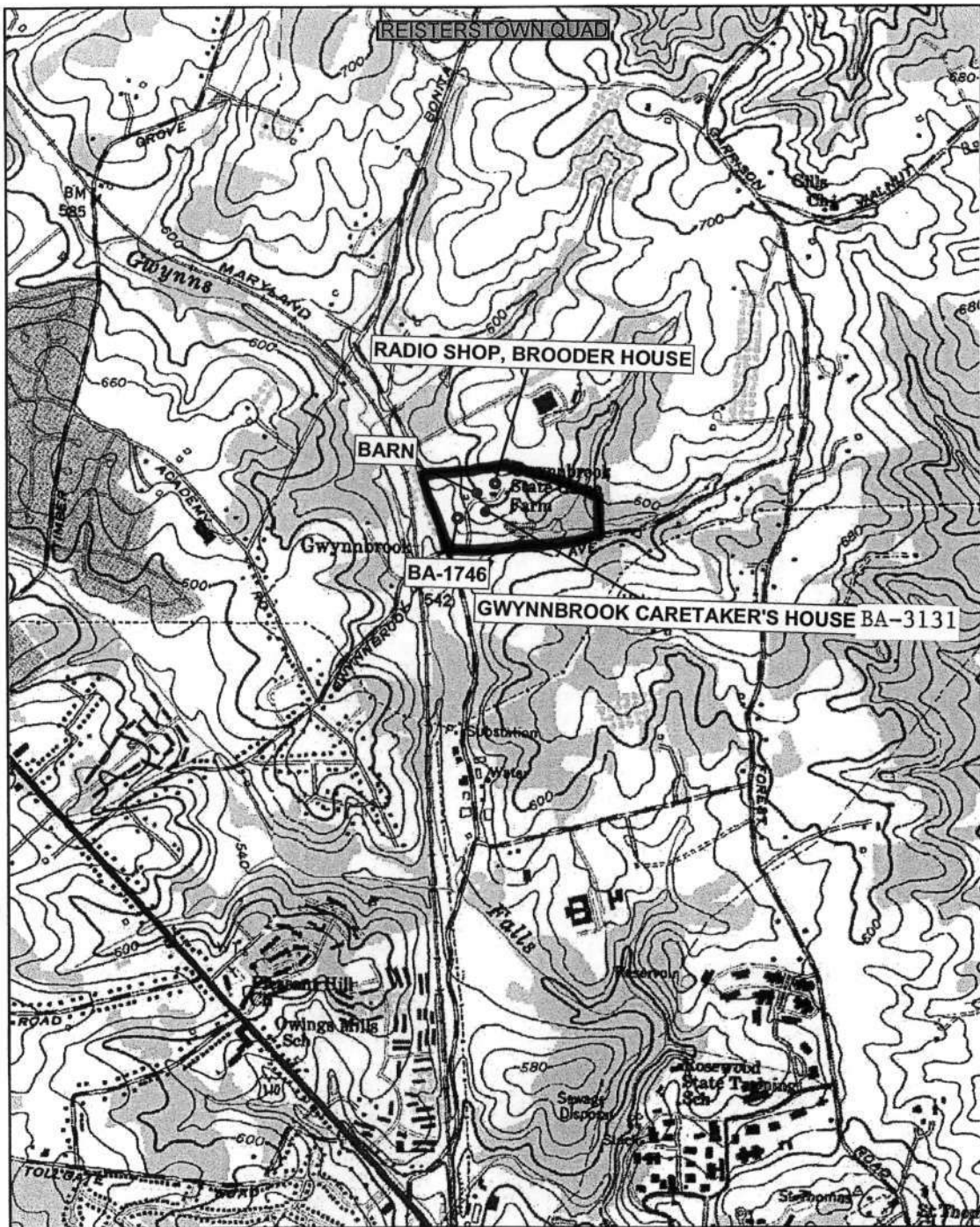
Number Photo log Page 1

The following information is the same for each photograph:

1. MIHP # BA-3129
2. Gwynnbrook Wildlife Management Area
3. Baltimore County, Maryland
4. R. Christopher Goodwin & Associates, Inc.
5. April 2003
6. MD SHPO

Photo #

1. Entrance to Gwynnbrook WMA, view looking east.
2. Gwynnbrook Farmhouse (BA-1746), view looking north.
3. Gwynnbrook Farmhouse Outbuilding, view looking northwest.
4. Former Brooder House, view looking northeast.
5. Barn, view looking northeast.
6. Old Radio Building and former brooder house, view looking northwest.
7. Boat/Tractor Shop, view looking northeast.
8. Gwynnbrook WMA community pond, view looking east.



BUILT RESOURCES



GWYNNBROOK WMA



0 1000 2000 ft



1:24,000

GWYNNBROOK WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA (BA-3129)
Baltimore County, MD



R. Christopher Goodwin & Associates, Inc.

241 East Fourth Street, Suite 100 Frederick, MD 21701

DATE: 10/17/03

PREPARED BY: JPH



BA-3129
Gwynnbrook WMA
Baltimore Co. MD
RCGA

April 2003

MD SHPO
Entrance looking E
1 of 8



BA-3129
Gwynnbrook WMA
Baltimore Co. MD
RCGA

Apr. 1 2003

MD SHPO

Gwynnbrook farmhse (BA-1746),
looking N

2 of 8



BA-3129
Gwynnbrook WHP
Baltimore Co. MD

REG A

April 2003

MD SHA
Gwynnbrook Farms outbldg. looking NW

3 of 8



BA-3129

Gwynnbrook WHA

Baltimore Co. MD

RCGA

April 2003

MD SHPO

Brooder house, looking NE

4 of 8



BA-3129
Gwynnbrook WMA
Baltimore Co. MD
RCG A
April 2003
MD SHPO
Barn looking NE
5 of 8



BA-3129

Gwynnbrook WMA

Baltimore Co. MD

REG A

April 2003

MD SHPo

Old radio building + broader hse, looking NW

6 of 8



BA-3129

Gwynnbrook WMA

Baltimore Co. MD

RCGA

April 2003

MD SHPO

Boat/Tractor Shop

7 of 8



BA-3129

Gwynnbrook WHA
Baltimore Co. MD

RCGA

April 2003

MD SHPO
Community pond, looking E

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